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contract, which has rendered them part of the Devil's possession, and contrive how they may *obliterate* that reproach, and disentangle their mortgaged souls. *Decay of Piety.*

These simple ideas, the understanding can no more refuse to have, or alter, or blot them out, than a mirror can refuse, alter, or *obliterate* the images, which the objects set before it produce. *Locke.*

OBLITERATION. *n. f.* [*obliteratio*, Latin.] Effacement; extinction.

Considering the casualties of wars, transigrations, especially that of the general flood, there might probably be an *obliteration* of all those monuments of antiquity that ages precedent at some time have yielded. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

OBLIVION. *n. f.* [*oblivio*, Latin.]

1. Forgetfulness; cessation of remembrance.

Water-drops have worn the stones of Troy,

And blind *oblivion* swallow'd cities up,

And mighty states characterless are graced

To dusty nothing. *Shakef. Trail and Crossfida.*

Thou shouldst have heard many things of worthy memory,

which now shall die in *oblivion*, and thou return unexperienced

to thy grave. *Shakef. Taming of the Shrew.*

Knowledge is made by *oblivion*, and to purchase a clear

and warrantable body of truth, we must forget and part with

much we know. *Brown's Vulgar Err. Pref.*

Can they imagine, that God has therefore forgot their

finis, because they are not willing to remember them? Or

will they measure his pardon by their own *oblivion*. *South.*

Among our crimes *oblivion* may be set;

But 'tis our king's perfection to forget. *Dryden.*

2. Amneity; general pardon of crimes in a state.

By the act of *oblivion*, all offences against the crown, and

all particular trespasses between subject and subject, were pardoned,

remitted, and utterly extinguished. *Davies.*

OBLIVIOUS. *adj.* [*obliviosus*, Latin.] Causing forgetfulness.

Raze out the written troubles of the brain,

And with some sweet *oblivious* antidote

Cleanse the stuff'd bosom. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

The British souls

Exult to see the crouching ghosts descend

Unnumber'd; well aveng'd, they quit the cares

Of mortal life, and drink th' *oblivious* lake. *Philips.*

Oh born to see what none can see awake!

Behold the wonders of th' *oblivious* lake. *Pope's Dunci.*

OBLONG. *adj.* [*oblong*, Fr. *oblongus*, Latin.] Longer than

broad; the same with a rectangle parallelogram, whose sides

are unequal. *Harr.*

The best figure of a garden I esteem an *oblong* upon a de-

fect. *Temple's Miscell.*

Every particle, supposing them globular or not very *oblong*,

would be above nine million times their own length from any

other particle. *Bentley's Sermons.*

OBLONGLY. *adv.* [from *oblong*.] In an oblong direction.

The surface of the temperate climates is larger than it

it would have been, had the globe of our earth or of the plan-

ets, been either spherical, or *oblongly* spheroidal. *Cheyne.*

OBLONGNESS. *n. f.* [from *oblong*.] The state of being oblong.

OBLIQUE. *n. f.* [*obliquus*, Latin.]

1. Cenforious speech; blame; slander; reproach.

Reasonable moderation hath freed us from being deservedly

subject unto that bitter kind of *obliquy*, whereby as the church

of Rome doth, under the colour of love towards those things

which be harmless, maintain extremely most hurtful corrup-

tions; so we peradventure might be upbraided, that under

colour of hatred towards those things that are corrupt, we

are on the other side as extreme, even against most harm-

less ordinances. *Hosker, b. iv. f. 14.*

Here new aspersions, with new *obliquies*,

Are laid on old defects. *Daniel's Civil War.*

Canst thou with impious *obliquy* condemn

The just decree of God, pronounce'd and sworn? *Milton.*

Shall names that made your city the glory of the earth, be

mentioned with *obliquy* and detraction? *Adison.*

Every age might perhaps produce one or two true genius,

if they were not sunk under the censure and *obliquy* of plod-

ding, servile, imitating pedants. *Swift.*

2. Cause of reproach; disgrace. Not proper.

My chastity's the jewel of our house,

Bequeathed down from many ancestors;

Which were the greatest *obliquy* i'th' world

In me to lose. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.*

OBMUTESCENCE. *n. f.* [from *obmutescere*, Latin.] Loss of speech.

A vehement fear often produceth *obmutescence*. *Brown.*

OBNOXIOUS. *n. f.* [*obnoxius*, Latin.]

1. Subject.

I propound a character of justice in a middle form, be-

tween the speculative discourses of philosophers, and the

writings of lawyers, which are tied and *obnoxious* to their

particular laws. *Bacon's Holy War.*

2. Liable to punishment.

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All are *obnoxious*, and this faulty land,
Like fainting Hester, does before you stand,
Watching your sceptre.

We know ourselves *obnoxious* to God's severe justice, and that
he is a God of mercy and hatred sin; and therefore that we
might not have the least suspicion of his unwillingness to for-
give, he hath sent his only begotten son into the world, by
his dismal sufferings and cursed death, to expiate our offences.

Culamy's Sermons.

Thy name, O Varus, if the kinder pow'rs

Preserve our plains, and shield the Mantuan tow'rs,

Obnoxious by Cremona's neighb'ring crime,

The wings of swans, and stronger piston'd rhyme

Shall raise aloft. *Dryd.*

3. Liable; exposed.

Long hostility had made their friendship weak in itself,

and more *obnoxious* to jealousy and distrust. *Hayward.*

But what will not ambition and revenge

Descend to? who aspires, must down as low

As high he soar'd; *obnoxious* first or last,

To basest things. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

Beasts lie down,

To dew *obnoxious* on the grassy floor. *Dryden.*

OBNOXIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *obnoxius*.] Subjection; liable-

ness to punishment.

OBNOXIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *obnoxius*.] In a state of subjec-

tion, in the state of one liable to punishment.

To **OBNUBILATE.** *v. a.* [*obnubilo*, Latin.] To cloud; to

obscure.

O'BOLE. *n. f.* [*obolus*, Lat.] In pharmacy, twelve grains. *Asif.*

OBREPTION. *n. f.* [*obreptio*, Latin.] The act of creeping on.

To **OBRIGATE.** *v. a.* [*obrogo*, Lat.] To proclaim a con-

trary law for the dissolution of the former. *Dit.*

OBSCENE. *adj.* [*obscene*, Fr. *obsceneus*, Latin.]

1. Immodest; not agreeable to chastity of mind; causing low

ideas.

Chemos th' *obscene* dread of Moab's sons. *Milton.*

Words that were once chaste, by frequent use grow *obscene*

and uncleanly. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Offensive; disgusting.

A girdle foul with grease binds his *obscene* attire. *Dryden.*

Home as they went, the sad discourse renew'd,

Of the relentless dame to death pursu'd,

And of the fight *obscene* so lately view'd. *Dryden.*

3. Inauspicious; ill omened.

Care shuns thy walks, as at the cheerful light

The groaning ghosts, and birds *obscene* take flight. *Dryd.*

It is the sun's late like your's, to be displeasing to owls

and *obscene* animals, who cannot bear his lustre. *Pope's Lett.*

OBSCENELY. *adv.* [from *obscene*.] In an impure and unchaste

manner.

OBSCENESS. *n. f.* [*obscenitas*, Fr. from *obscene*.] Impurity of

OBSCENITY. *n. f.* [*obscenitas*, Fr. from *obscene*.] Impurity of

thought or language; unchastity; lewdness.

Mr. Cowley asserts plainly, that *obscenity* has no place in

wit. *Dryden.*

Those fables were tempered with the Italian severity, and

free from any note of infamy or *obscenity*. *Dryden.*

Thou art wickedly devout,

In Tiber ducking thrice by break of day,

To wash th' *obscenities* of night away. *Dryden.*

No pardon vile *obscenity* should find,

Tho' wit and art conspire to move your mind. *Pope.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [*obscuration*, Lat.]

1. The act of darkening.

As to the sun and moon, their *obscuration* or change of

colour happens commonly before the eruption of a fiery moun-

tain. *Buratt.*

2. A state of being darkened.

OBSCURE. *adj.* [*obscurus*, Fr. *obscurus*, Latin.]

1. Dark; unlightened; gloomy, hindring light.

Who's curst his father or mother, his lamp shall be put

out in *obscure* darkness. *Prov. xx. 20.*

Who shall tempt with wand'ring feet

The dark unbottom'd infinite abyss,

And thro' the palpable *obscure* find out

His uncouth way? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

2. Living in the dark.

The *obscure* bird clamour'd the live-long night. *Shakef.*

3. Not easily intelligible; abstruse; difficult.

I explain some of the most *obscure* passages, and those

which are most necessary to be understood, and this accord-

ing to the manner wherein he used to express himself. *Dryd.*

4. Not noted; not observable.

He says, that he is an *obscure* person; one, I suppose, that

is in the dark. *Atterbury.*

To **OBSCURE.** *v. a.* [*obscurare*, Latin.]

1. To darken; to make dark.

Sudden the thunder blackens all the skies,

And the winds whistle, and the furies roll

Mountains on mountains, and *obscure* the pole. *Pope.*

2. To

OBS

2. To make less visible.

They are all couched in a pit hard by Herne's oak, with

obscured lights; which at the very instant of Falstaff's and

our meeting, they will at once display to the night. *Shakef.*

What must I hold a candle to my flames?

They themselves, good foth, are too, too light.

Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love,

And I should be *obscured*. *Shakef. M. of Venice.*

Thinking by this retirement to *obscure* himself from God,

he infringed the omniscience and essential ubiquity of his

maker. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

3. To make less intelligible.

By private consent it hath been used in dangerous times

to *obscure* writing, and make it hard to be read by others not

acquainted with the intrigue. *Holder.*

There is scarce any duty which has been so *obscured* by the

writings of learned men, as this. *Wake.*

4. To make less glorious, beautiful, or illustrious.

Think'st thou, vain spirit, thy glories are the same,

And seest not now by thy ungrateful pride,

That shows me what thy faded looks did hide. *Dryden.*

OBSCURELY. *adv.* [from *obscurus*.]

1. Not brightly; not luminously.

2. Out of light; privately; without notice; not conspicuously.

Such was the site of this prodigious fire,

Which in mean buildings first *obscurely* bred,

From thence did soon to open streets aspire. *Dryden.*

There live retir'd,

Content thyself to be *obscurely* good. *Admison's Cato.*

Let him go, pursued by silent wrath,

Meet unexpected daggers in his way,

And in some distant land *obscurely* die. *Irene.*

3. Not clearly; not plainly.

OBSCURENESS. *n. f.* [*obscuritas*, Lat. *obscuritas*, Fr.]

OBSCURITY. *n. f.* [*obscuritas*, Lat. *obscuritas*, Fr.]

1. Darknes; want of light.

Lo! a day of darkness and *obscurity*, tribulation and an-

guish, upon the earth. *Esther xi. 8.*

Should Cynthia quit thee, Venus, and each star,

It would not form one thought dark as mine are:

I could lend them *obscureness* now, and say,

Out of myself there should be no more day. *Dennis.*

2. Unnoticed state; privacy.

You are not for *obscurity* design'd,

But, like the sun, must cheer all human kind. *Dryd.*

3. Darknes of meaning.

Not to mention that *obscureness* that attends prophetic rap-

tures, which yet are so uneasy to be satisfactorily understood

by our imperfect intellects, that let them be delivered in the

clearest expressions, the notions themselves will yet appear

obscure. *Boyle on Colours.*

That this part of sacred scripture had difficulties in it:

many causes of *obscurity* did readily occur to me. *Locke.*

What lies beyond our positive idea towards infinity, lies

in *obscurity*, and has the undeterminate confusion of a nega-

tive idea, wherein I know I do not comprehend all I would,

it being too large for a finite capacity. *Locke.*

OBSCURATION. *n. f.* [*obscuratio*, from *obscurus*, Lat.] Intreaty;

supplication.

That these were comprehended under the sacra, is mani-

fest from the old